3i Mukherjea O. Y-4,5 (ca. 1933-1939) 1962
AW42 Santal AW42

mahajans and many of us run to the tea-gardens to earn a living."[1]

Statistics sheds further light on the condition of the cattle, the mainstay of an agricultural population. "A large section of the aborigines consisting of the Santals, and the Bhumijs, and forming about 50 per cent of the population, do not care for milk as an item of nutrition. This perhaps contributes to a certain extent to their indifference to the improvement of cattle. Even as beasts of burden or as instruments of husbandry, the cattle in the state are very poor in quality."[2] So depending on such ricketty props, they can only turn out paddy and thereafter "biri" (*mug* pulse), in pathetic ignorance of supplementary means of livelihood like cottage-industries.

Little wonder that with such limited means of livelihood and scanty fare as we have already noticed they offer little resistance to intoxication. Their wants and worries weigh upon them so much that they take to drunken forgetfulness to drown their

1 Ref. *Census Report of Mayurbhanj*, 1931, p. 10, which reads "During the last decade 1,497 coolies belonging to this State were recruited for work in the tea-gardens by the garden-sirdars."

2 There are in all 600,000 heads of cattle in the State (Total population 8089,603) page 71 *Census Report* of Mayurbhanj, 1931.

Bi Mukherjea O. Y-4,5 (ca. 1933-1939) 1902
AW42 Santal AW42

735 sorrows. It is a pathetic sight to see young Santals
293 keep sober till they marry, and then grow old sud-
154 denly as cares and anxieties of life come to them,
when they plunge headlong in a sodden life.

181 The rigours of their life on the earth are some-
what overcome by the objects of material culture
we have noted in the foregoing pages. But one
can easily see that they are crude devices of a primi-
tive world, not serving their purpose well in the
[171] twentieth century. But, one must however notice
that the level of culture presented by the Santal is
on a par with that of the rest of the hill tribes of
what may be called the Central Belt of India, which
is a homogeneous culture-area in all important res-
pects.

Conclusion

174 As we conclude the review of Santal economic
181 life, we find that the actual stage reached by the
224 tribe in its material culture is still primitive. Their
241 traditions make it clear that there was a time in the
433 life of the Santals when they lived a semi-hunting
nomadic life, perpetually moving in quest of food.
But the picture we have got in the foregoing pages
reveals a people who have finally accepted the life of
settled agriculturists.

177 As, however, we look closely to the objects of
Santal material culture, we notice similarities with